3: Anonymous U-4 (no date) 1920 RH1 Caucasia RH1

(4) Minerals

The mineral resources of Caucasia have never yet been systematically surveyed, but they are known to be both varied and extensive. As at present worked, and excepting mineral oils (see below, p. 68)* which as a source of wealth have hitherto stood alone, the most valuable products are manganese and copper.

Baryta is produced in Kutais by six enterprises; the output in 1910 amounted to 1,750 metric tons, or five-sixths of Russia's total output.

Coal is mined chiefly at Tkvibuli, in Kutais, where the mines are served by a branch railway. This coal yields a dense strong coke useful for metallurgy. A very little coal is also produced in Kuban, and lignite of poor quality is found and consumed locally in the Migri valley, at Manglis and Borchka. Unexploited deposits exist on the Black Sea coast, where the Tkvarcheli forest is believed to cover 54,000 acres of coal of excellent quality. A large deposit occurs near Tiflis, in the valley of the River Oltinsk, and coal has recently been found at Akmetovskoi. The production in recent years shows a steady increase, the total output having been 45,700 metric tons in 1910, 51,000 in 1911, 69,000 in 1912, and 75,000 in 1913.

Copper.—The rich copper deposits have hitherto been only partially worked, but three distinct areas are now exploited by foreign capital:

(i) The Kedabek mines, in Elisavetopol (north-east of Lake Gokcha), are worked by the American firm of Siemens Brothers. There are three mines, at Kedabek, Kalakent, and Karabulakh, which are connected by a metre-gauge railway. The ore contains from 2 to 20 per cent. of copper, and the production of copper in 1913 was 1,272 metric tons. Benzene brought from Baku by pipe line is used for smelting, whereas the companies referred to below use electricity. Siemens Brothers had begun before the war to exploit copper at Kvartahana in the Province of

* [see cat. 116 -- Analyst]

3: Anonymous U-4 (no date) 1920 RH1 Caucasia RH1

Batum, and were about to erect blast furnace smelting works there.

(ii) The Allahverdi, Aktala, and Shambru mines, in the Lialvar Mountains (Tiflis), are worked by the French Compagnie Métallurgique et Industrielle du Caucase. At Allahverdi, the most productive mine, the ore (copper sulphide) contains 7·18 to 18·56 per cent. of copper, and the output of copper in 1913 was 4,760 metric tons.

(iii) The Dzansul, Chiakathevi, and Erga mines, on the borders of the Provinces of Batum and Kutais, are exploited by the Caucasus Copper Co., a British company formed in 1900. Heavy initial outlay and climatic difficulties necessitated a large capitalization, but in 1913, when some 12,000 workmen were employed, the profit obtained was £87,800. The ore in the mines contains from 16 to 18 per cent. of copper. In 1912 the production was 40,000 metric tons of ore and 3,000 metric tons of copper, but in 1913 the progress of the company was described as disappointing, the amount of copper produced being only 3,280 metric tons.

In addition to the above, there are various native enterprises. In the Okchi valley in the Sangesur district of Elisavetopol, old mines of great productivity have been reopened, but pack-horses are the only available means of transport. The Katar mine in Sangesur is now worked by electricity. In the Pambak Mountains, also in the Government of Elisavetopol, there are mines at Delijan, Sirimadan, Sagali, Mishkan, and Seifalu; at the last of these the ore yields from 20 to 30 per cent. of copper. The most important native companies are the Melik Azariantz, the Kunduroff, and the Grielsky.

The output of copper in Caucasia was 7,536 metric tons in 1908, 9,520 in 1909, and 7,631 in 1910. In 1912, 303,225 metric tons of ore were mined, of which 200,000 were smelted, yielding 9,270 metric tons of metal. In 1913 the production was 9,220 metric tons. The figures for 1912 and 1913 refer to the British, French, and American companies only. It is not clear whether those

3: Anonymous U-4 (no date) 1920 RH1 Caucasia RH1

Other places in Caucasia at which manganese occurs are Kvartala in Batum, where the French Manganese Ore Co. had arranged for the erection of plant at the end of 1913, Seifalu in Elisavetopol, and in the neighbourhood of Samtredi and Novo-Senaki. 317 [471]

Huge beds of *marl* are now being exploited near Novorossiisk by the cement companies there.

Salt.—There are rock-salt deposits in Erivan and Kars. and a certain amount of evaporated salt is produced in Baku and Daghestan. The total output of salt in 1910 was 28,340 metric tons, which consisted of 16,600 tons of rock-salt from Erivan, 6,930 tons of rock-salt from Kars, 4,370 tons of evaporated salt from Baku, and 440 tons of evaporated salt from Daghestan. The total output in 1911 amounted to 37,830 metric tons, and in 1913 to 32,260 metric tons.

Zinc is worked by the Alagir Smelting Co. at Sadon and Alagir, and from blende ore near Vladikavkaz. The company's works, which are 60 miles from the mines, are fitted with modern plant. In 1914 the company were planning a new exploitation, on a large scale, of both lead and zinc. The output of zinc in 1910 was 3,400 metric tons, and in 1912 the combined production of zinc and argentiferous lead was 26,000 metric tons. 328

Other Minerals.—At Soglik, near Dash Kessan, in the Gokcha range (Erivan) there is an inexhaustible supply of *alunite*, containing 37·58 per cent. of alum, but it is very little worked. *Antimony* is mined in small quantities in Tiflis. There is *arsenic* ore at Bechenakh, but up to the present it has not been exploited. There is a small output of *asbestos* from Sharbpan, Vzhinevi, and Lechgum in Kutais. There are excellent *bitumen* beds on the Black Sea coast, and *asphalt* is a by-product of the petroleum industry. *Cobalt* is mined in small quantities in Elisavetopol. White *diatomite* (infusorial earth), containing 87 per cent. of silica, is worked at Kissatip, near Akhaltsikh (Tiflis). *Emery* is found at Karabulakh (Elisavetopol). *Gold* exists in very small quantities in the alluvial deposits of the Alindja river, and in the ore of the 135 316

3: Anonymous U-4 (no date) 1920 RH1 Caucasia RH1

135 Kedabek copper mines. *Graphite* and *mercury* have
316 recently been found. *Pyrites* is worked for sulphur in Elisavetopol and Tiflis, and sulphur is also obtained at Bechenakh and Gunur, in Kutais.

(5) Mineral Oils

(*a*) *Sources of Supply*

135 Mineral oil, the great source of Caucasian wealth,
315 is found chiefly in the Governments of Baku, Terek, and Kuban, although small quantities occur elsewhere. Hitherto by far the richest oil-producing area has been that of Baku, comprising the Apsheron Peninsula, Cheleken Island and Holy Island, and the outlying district of Benagadi. In the Apsheron Peninsula lie the older oil-fields: the five belts of Balachani, Sabunchi, Romani, Bibi-Ebyat, and Zabrat, and the comparatively newly-discovered oil district of Surachani, about 12 miles away. Second to those of Baku in importance and apparently of increasing productivity are the Grozni fields in Terek Province. The Maikop oil-fields, in Kuban Province, have since 1912 yielded unsatisfactorily.

In 1908 the Caucasian oil-fields supplied about 22 per cent. of the world's total production, but the proportion has sunk very considerably since then. General figures of the output from 1910 to 1916 are given in Table II of the Appendix (p. 93).

382 The products of the mineral oil include illuminating oils, engine and cylinder oils, solar oils, goudron (asphalt), benzene, residuum (*ostotki*), and crude oil (untreated). Of these, *ostotki* was for years treated as waste, but it is now by far the largest product, having superseded kerosene, which bears a heavy duty, while *ostotki* is untaxed; it has a large sale as fuel for factories, railways, and steamships. Balachani oil is the heaviest in quality; *ostotki* is not so readily formed from the Bibi-Ebyat and Grozni products. Cheleken Island and Telav produce ozokerite (or paraffin wax). The lowest percentage of benzene

5: Allen H-4 (no date) 1923 RH1 Caucasia RH1

135 [114] 135 316 [178] 471

exist on the subject, and in Mr. Ghambashidze's book the existence of many important deposits is only broadly indicated.

Metals.—Manganese is the only metal which has been adequately worked in Georgia, and the growth of this industry has, by creating a community of miners, had an important effect on the industrialisation and subsequent growth of the Socialist movement in the country.

The principal manganese deposit covers an extent of about 100 square miles along both banks of the river Kvirili, in the Government of Kutais, the centre of the mining region being at the town of Chiaturi. The mines were at first worked by a large number of small native firms who, from lack of expert knowledge and capital, employed very unscientific methods, with the result that there was much waste. Later, however, foreign firms, chiefly German, began to purchase holdings and to organise the industry, and towards the end of the last decade of the nineteenth century Georgian manganese rivalled that of Brazil and India. Great Britain was at first the principal purchaser, but Germany and other Continental countries later absorbed the bulk of the output. The industry reached the height of its prosperity in 1906, when a decrease in demand, unusually high sea-freights, and foreign competition caused a depression which lasted until 1911. In that year a revival of prosperity took place, but with the closing of the Dardanelles at the end of 1914 the industry suffered a severe blow. At the end of 1918 work at the mines had practically ceased, and heavy stocks of ore were lying at Chiaturi and Poti.

Further deposits of manganese exist at Khvartata (Batum), Saifalu (Elisavetpol), Samtredi and Novo-Senaki (Kutais).

Outcrops of *copper* occur in many parts of the Caucasus, and its mining has been in progress from the remotest times. There are three main areas which are known to contain rich deposits: (1) south of Tiflis, and east and west of the Tiflis-Kars Railway; (2) in the Chorokh Valley; and (3) in the Zangezur region.

(1) The Kedabeg group, comprising the mines of Kedabeg, Kelakent and Kara-bulag, situated north-east of Gökcha in the Government of Elisavetpol, have been worked by the American firm of Siemens Brothers, whose production of copper in 1913 amounted to 1,272 metric tons. The Allahverdi, Akhtala and Shambru mines, in the Lialvar Hills, south of Tiflis, are worked by the French Cie Métallurgique et Industrielle du Caucase, their production in 1913 amounting to 4,760 metric tons. Native firms also work mines in the Phambak Hills,

5: Allen H-4 (no date) 1923 RH1 Caucasia RH1

and at Delijan, Kazakh, Sagali, Saifalu, and elsewhere in the Government of Elisavetpol.

(2) In the Chorokh Basin, the whole length of which is believed to contain rich deposits of ore, the British Caucasus Copper Co. has worked the Dzanzul mine, south of Borchka. In 1912 the production from this mine was 40,000 tons of ore and 3,000 tons of copper, but in the following year the output was disappointing. In the same region Siemens Brothers had begun operations at the Khvartshana mine.

(3) In the Zangezur region difficulties of transport have prevented adequate exploitation, but work has been undertaken by native firms, notably at Synik, Barabatum and Katar. Other considerable deposits are believed to exist in the Rion Valley round Telav and Zakatali, in the Sukhum district and along the Ossetian Military Road.

Iron has been little exploited in the Caucasus, but deposits have been prospected at Khamuli in Kutais, Chachak in Tiflis, on the banks of the Bzib near Sukhum, at Veden in Chechnia, in the Maikop district, and near Lenkoran.

There are deposits of *lead* and *zinc* ore at Sadon, near Vladikavkaz, in the neighbourhoods of Sukhum and Gori, in the Government of Elisavetpol, near Mozdok and Artvin, and elsewhere, but little exploitation has been undertaken. Deposits of *mercury*, *molybdenum*, *antimony*, *iron pyrites*, *cobalt* and *nickel*, and also small quantities of *gold* and *silver* exist, and would probably repay exploitation.

Non-Metals.—*Coal* is exploited in the Caucasus only at the mines of Tkhvibuli in the Government of Kutais, where the annual production for 1911–15 averaged about 5,000 tons. Much of it however was of poor quality. Rich deposits have been prospected at Tkvartcheli, in the Government of Sukhum, and another field has been located near Olti in the Government of Kars.

Deposits of *baryta* have been worked in the Government of Kutais; *asbestos* is produced at Shorapan and elsewhere in Kutais; *sulphur* abounds in the Government of Erivan; *salt* is produced in considerable quantities in the Governments of Baku, Erivan, Kars, and Daghestan; there are *bitumen*-beds on the Black Sea coast; *emery* is found at Kara-Bulakh; fine *lithographic stone* is obtainable at Amlivi, near Tiflis, and *pumice-stone* near Kars; *mica* and *graphite* also exist.

Mineral Springs.—The Caucasus is celebrated for its mineral springs, and before the Revolution many thousands of Russians, and even invalids from Western Europe, visited the health-

316 3(?) Kamladze, Aleksandr Artem'evich
Stalin prize 1. class
Mining engineer

Laur. Stalin. prem. 1950
p. 34

669 3(?) Kamo (pseud.) Party-pseudonym of Ter-Petrosian, Semën Arshakovich Born in Gori, 1882-1922. Prof. revolutionary. Died in car accident. Collaborated with Stalin.

BE II 19:543

242 1 Kanchaveli, L.
Director of the Institute of plant protection of Akad. nauk, SSR Gruz., 1954

Zar. Vost. 2/17/54

538 2 Kaputikian, Sil'va Barunakovna 1919- . Armenian poetess, born in Erevan. Stalin prize in 1952. Wrote Vera, Esli vdrug pozuvut menia, etc.

BE II 20:90

646 2 Karapetian, Sashibek Airapetovich
Deputy Sov. Nats. VS SSSR, 4. sozyv, 1954.

Kom. Er. 3/19/54

814 drevnegruzinskoi literatury. 2 vols. 1923-24. 3. ed. 1951-52. Did some work on Byzantine literature as reflected in Georgian translation, and unavailable in the original.

BE II 20:491

646 1 Kemoklidze, Parten Georgevich
Deputy to Sov. Soiuz VS SSSR (4. s'ezd, 1954).

Bak. Rab. 2/18/54

538 5 Kerashev, Tembot Magometovich 1903- . Adygeian prose-writer. Translated "International" into Adygeian. Novel Shambul about collectivization of Adygeia. Rec'd Stalin prize in 1948 for Doroga k schast'iu.

BE II 20:551, I 61:254

•316 3(?) Kereselidze, Konstantin Georgievich
Stalin prize 3. class, 1950. Mining engineer.

Laur. Stalin. prem. 1950
p. 35

665 3 Kerimov, A. G.
CC CP Azerb. SSR, 20. s'ezd, 1954.

RHI

316
646 1 Sheklashvili, Shalva Spiridonovich
Deputy to Sov. Nats. VS SSSR (4. s'ezd, 1954). Born in Gorisa, 1908- ; mining engineer; since 1949 head of "Chiaturmarganets" trust. Deputy of VS Gruz. SSR since 1951.

Bak. Rab. 3/19/54

445 2 Shekoian, A. A.
Member CC CP Arm. SSR, 17. - 18. s'ezd, 1954, 1956

Kom. Er. 1/22/56

538 1 Shengelaia, Demma, 1896-
Georgian writer, symbolist; His big work is Sanavardo, 1924-5 (on how capitalism replaced feudalism). Put' portrays counter-revolutionary heroes. 1927 he wrote Tiflis in which he shows affinity to proletarian ideology.

BE I 62:288

1 Shengelaia, Leon Mikhailovich
see
Kiacheli, Leo 1

1 [cf. cat. 116, p. 747 -- Analyst]

316 2 Vartanian, Konstantin Tigranovich
Stalin prize 3. class, 1950 mining engineer.

Laur. Stalin. prem. 1950
p. 35

536
646 1 Vasadze, Akakii Alekseevich
1899-. Actor; CP member since 1939, deputy to VS Gruz, SSR 1.-2. sozyv. Since 1935 director of Rustaveli theatre in Tiflis; he also acted as Iago, Franz, Vasilli Shuiskii, etc. Worked under influence of Mardzhanishvili. For role in Kidivdze by Daraseli in 1941, Velikii gosudar' by Solov'ev in 1945 and Potoplennye kamni by Mosashvili rec'd. Stalin prizes.

Laur. Stalin. prem. 1950 p. 78
BE II 7:24

646 5 Vas'kov, Aleksei Ivanovich
Cherkes, Deputy Sov. Nats. VS SSSR 4. sozyv. 1954

Pravda 3/18/54

793 2 Vazgen, I
see under
Baldzhian, Armenian Catholicos. 1/1

1/1 [cf. cat. 116, p. 689 -- Archivist]

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Map 5 Caucasian Industry in Czarist Russia as of 1913

- x : Centers of fuel industry
- △ : Mines
- □ : Centers of metallurgy
- O : Machinery and metal-working plants
- ⚲ : Silicate and porcelain works
- ● : Chemical industry centers
- ⚲ : Textile industry centers
- ⚲ : Food industry centers
- v : Centers of various industries

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7: Columbia U. S-4, 5 1956 RHl Caucasia RHl

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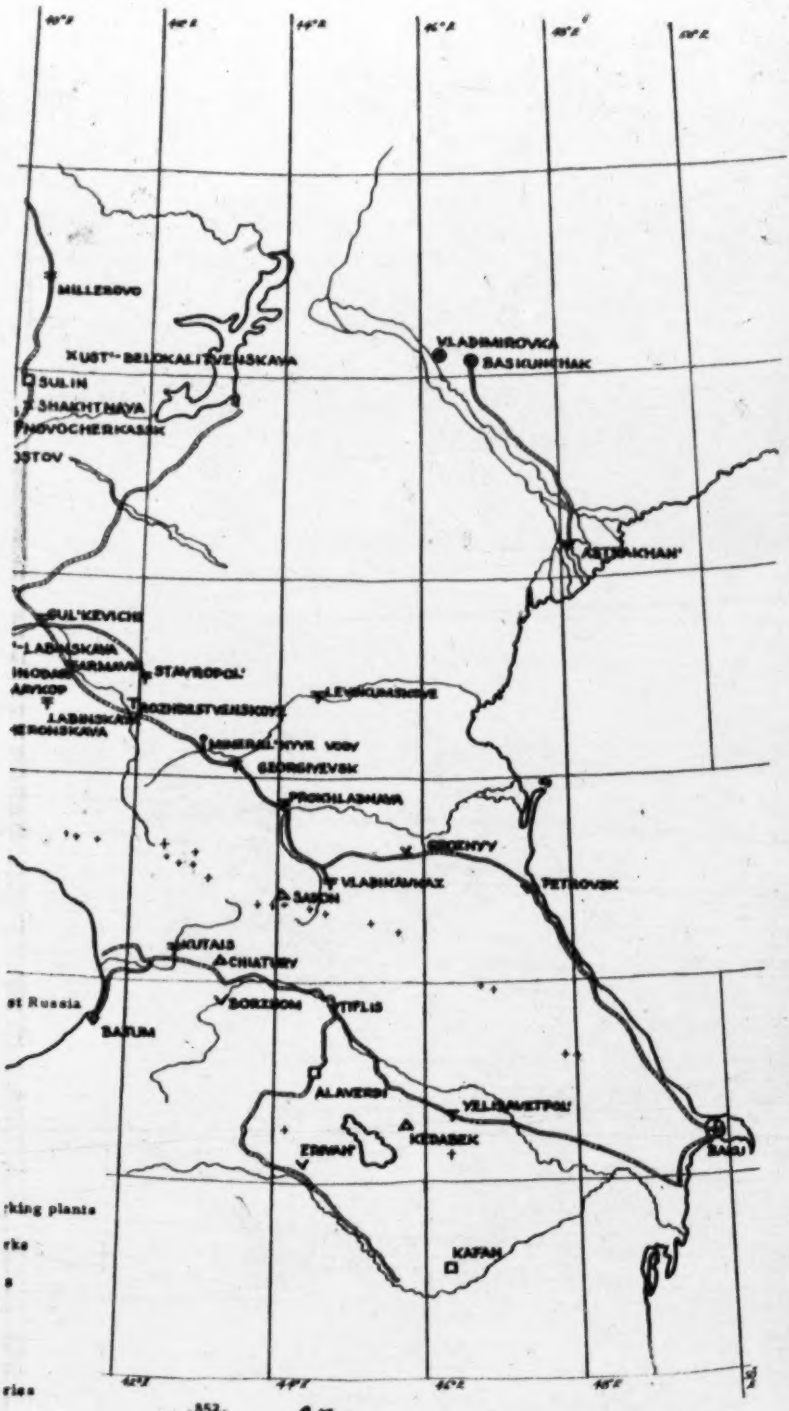

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315 382 of Caucasian oil production, the oilfields around Maykop, are richer than those of Makhachkala, though they have not yet fully recovered from the German destruction. The main center of these fields is Maykop. The Maykop product is refined in Maykop, or sent by pipes to the Krasnodar, Tuapse, or Trudovaya refineries. The fifth oilfield is the Shirako oilfield (in eastern Georgia), whose exploitation began only recently. The Shiraki product is processed in the Mirzaani cracking plants. The oil of the Caucasian fields is sometimes used as fuel for thermo-electric plants.

315 Natural gas centers: Though gas occurs around the oilfields at various places, large-scale industrial exploitation is confined to the methane gas wells of Dagestanskie Ognie where it is used for fuel in the glassworks.

316 Coal mines: This very important fuel, if one disregards the mines located in the northern Rostov Oblast, is scarce in the Caucasus. Only Georgia has really important coal mines, of which the Tkibuli and Tkvarcheli mines produce coking coal, whereas the Akhaltsikhe mines produce brown coal. In the North Caucasus, the Rostov coal mines are a continuation of the Donets Basin coal-producing area; they contribute 10% of its output and contain roughly 20% of the Donets Basin reserves. Caucasian coal is very often used as fuel for thermo-electric plants, the most important of which is the Artemovskiy Plant (90,000kw).

377 Water resources and hydro-electric plants: The Caucasus is extremely rich in water resources. Half of the water resources of

377 European Russia are in the Caucasus. Of these water resources a large part is already being exploited. In Azerbaijan: Mingechaur and Terter; in Armenia: Yerevan, Kanaker, Gyumush, Sevan; in Georgia: Zemo-Avchala, Khram, Adzharis-Tskhali, and Rioni are the most important hydro-electric plants. The hydro-electric plants along the Zanga River form the basis of Armenian industry. The industry of Tbilisi is based upon the power coming from Zemo-Avchala, whereas the Rion station supplies power for the Chiatura mines, for the ferro-manganese works of Zestafoni, and for industry in and around Kutaisi. The water resources of the North Caucasus are less exploited, although even there one finds great hydro-electric plants. The Baksan station (in the Kabardian ASSR) furnishes power to the health resorts around Pyatigorsk, the Ardon, Gizel'don, and Dzaudzhikau stations are the basis of North Ossetian industry. Cergebil', in Dagestan, is also one of the important stations (65,000 kw).

316 Iron mines: The Caucasus is poor in iron ore and the only important iron mine is at Dashkesan (Azerbaijan).

Manganese mines: This ore, very important in steel production, is mined at Chiatura, the second largest manganese mine in the world.

327 Centers of ferrous metallurgy: The two most important metallurgical centers are Rustavi, and Zestafoni (both in Georgia). The Rustavi steel mills, based on Tkvarcheli coal and Dashkesan iron, have a complete pig-iron, ingot, and rolled steel cycle. There are important

327 metallurgical centers at Taganrog (with the largest boiler works in the USSR), and at Krasnyy Sulin.

316 Non-ferrous mineral resources: Of these, copper is the most important. It is mined mostly in Armenia (Alaverdi area, and Kafan) and in West Azerbaijan (Kedabek). Silver, lead, and zinc are mined only at Sadon (North Ossetian ASSR). It is noteworthy that the Caucasus (especially Dagestan), which has long been famous for its silver handicraft, has no other silver mine than this one. Molybdenum, one of the rare metals, is mined at Kadzharan (Azerbaijan SSR), and at Tyrny-Auz (Kabardian ASSR).

328 Centers of non-ferrous metallurgy: Located in Armenia and in the North Ossetian ASSR. Armenia has copper smelters at Alaverdi and Kafan, whereas the North Ossetian Republic is famous for its new metallurgical works at Dzaudzhikau which is of unionwide significance and is connected with the Sadon lead and zinc mines. In the same republic, Alagir has lead and zinc smelters and Minur has an ore-concentrating plant.

Centers of aluminum industry: The only plant, one of the important plants in the USSR, is at Yerevan. Production is based on cheap power from the stations on the Zanga River.

312 Machinery and metal-working plants: As the result of the Russian industrialization drive, nowadays almost every large city has machinery plants. Armavir, Maykop, Novorossiysk, Taganrog, and especially Rostov, specialize in

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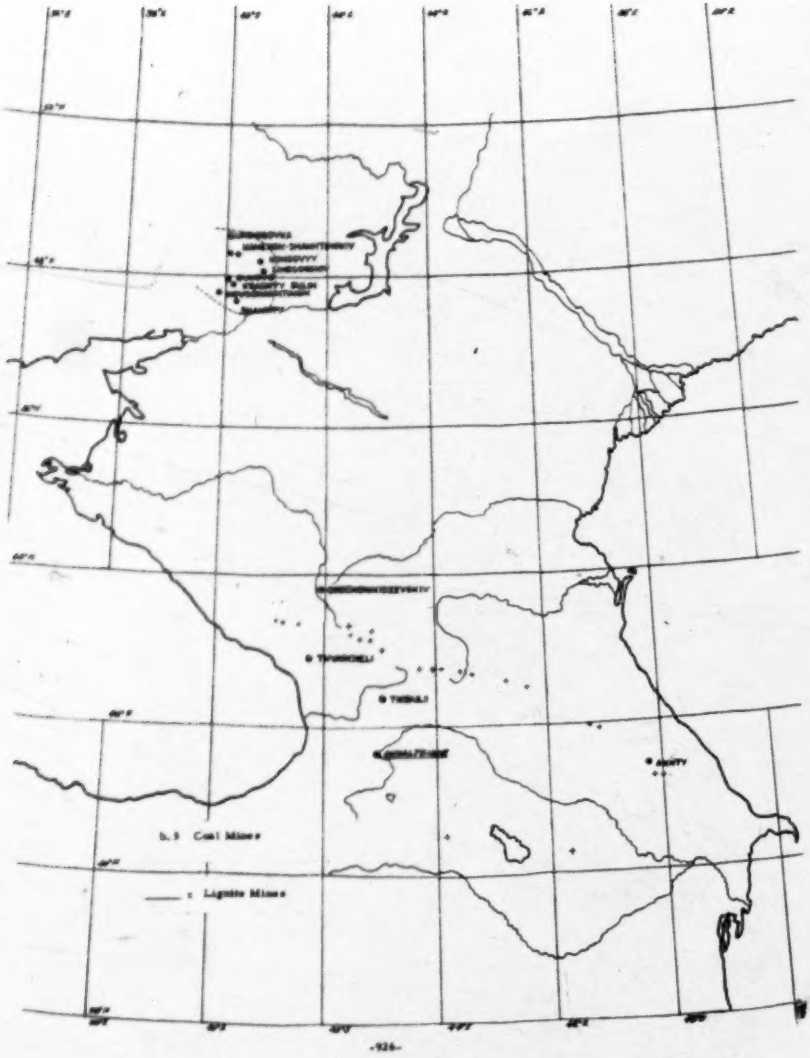

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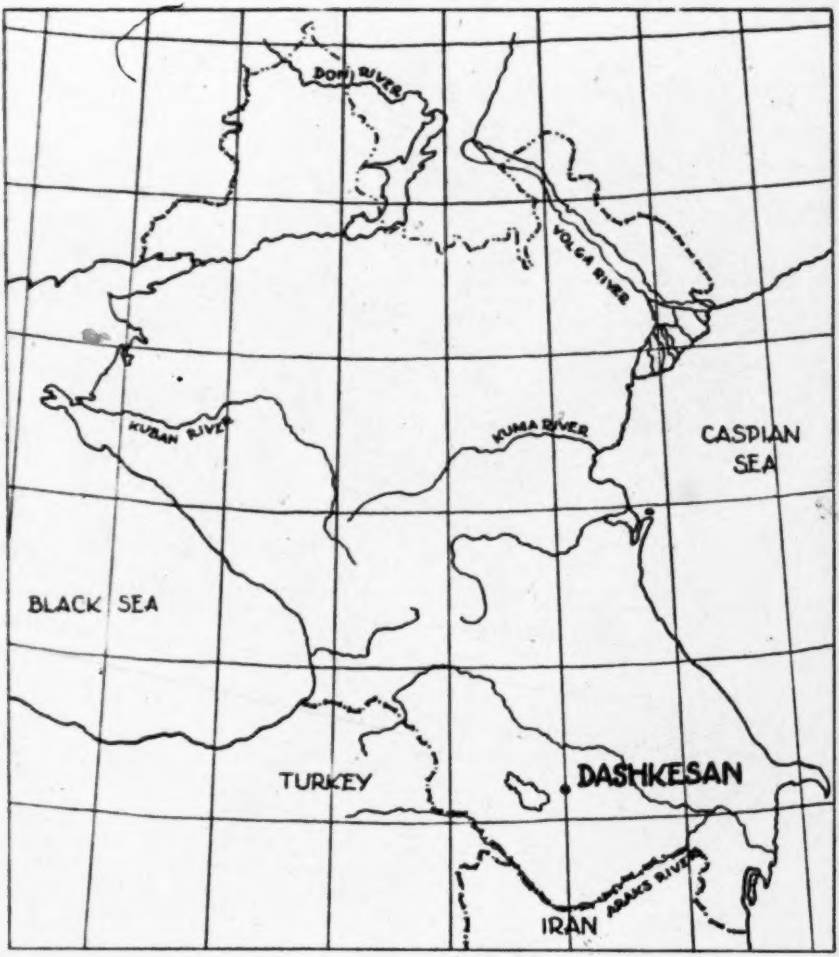
b. 8 Iron Mines



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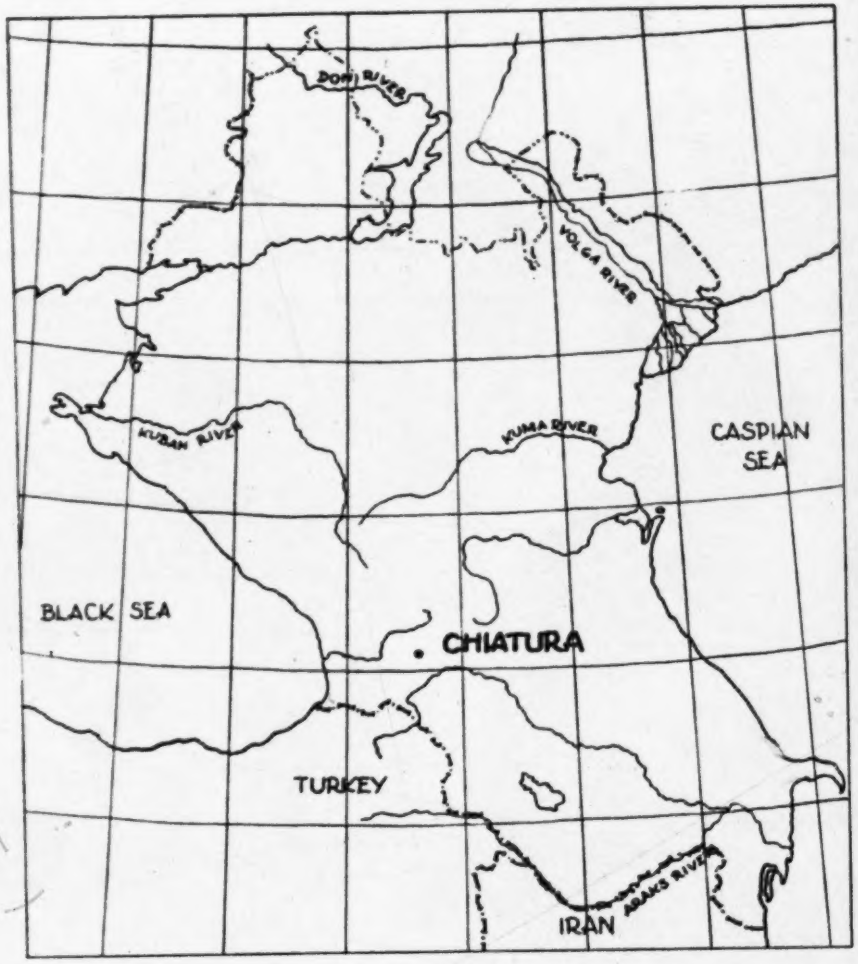
b. 9 Manganese Mines



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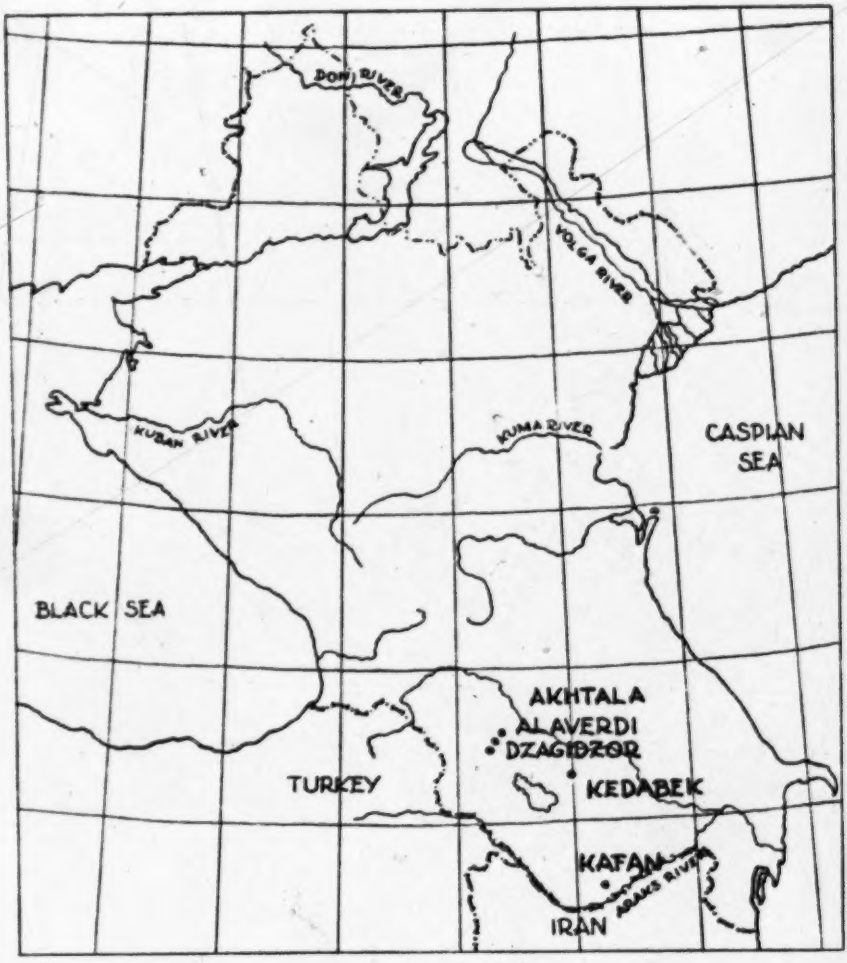
b. 11 Copper Mines



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b.12 Silver Mines

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b.13 Zinc Mines

b. 14 Lead Mines

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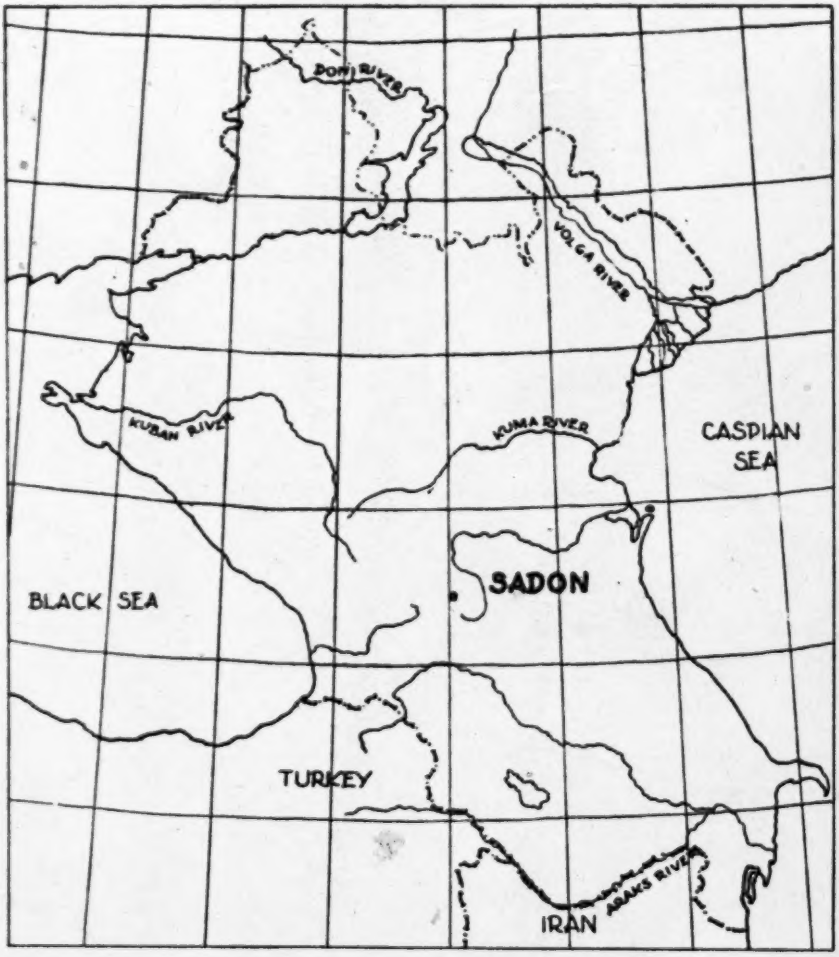

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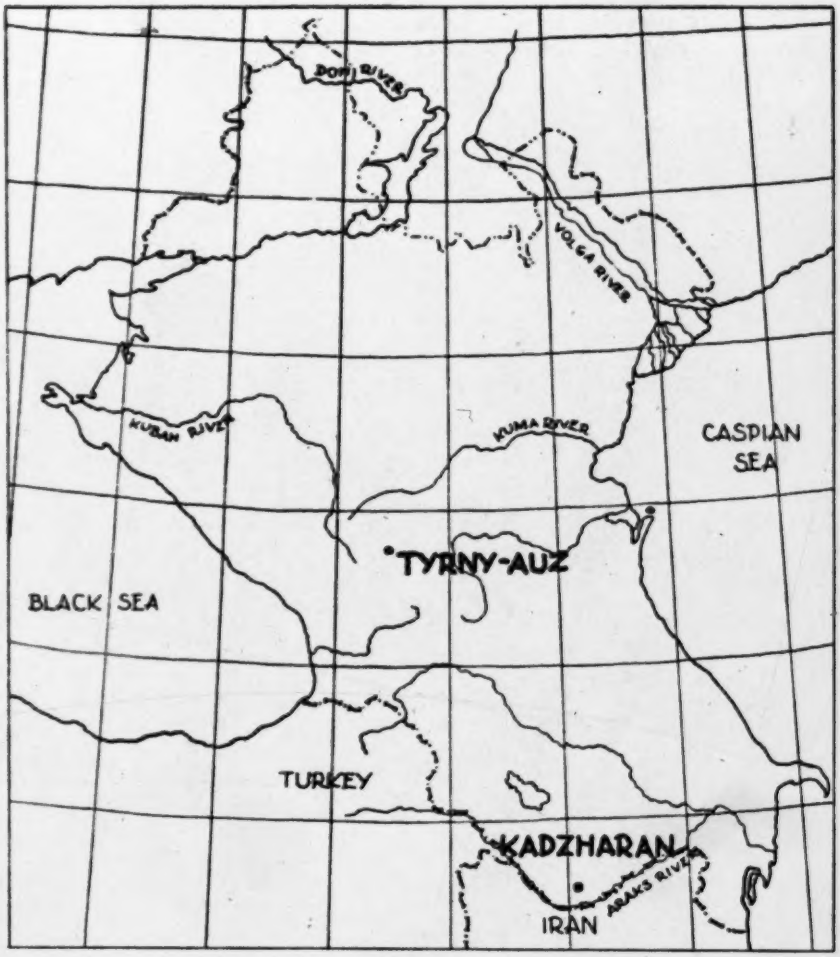
b. 15 Molybdenum Mines



23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Caucasia RH1

The Donets ridge, the major portion lying within the Ukraine, penetrates the oblast between the lower Don and its right affluent, the Northern Donets. It is a plateau of limestone and sandstone, which is deeply dissected by river courses and ravines. On the higher points burial mounds of the ancient steppe dwellers are often found. The villages, normally surrounded by gardens and orchards, lie along the ravines and valleys of small streamlets. A similar landscape is represented by the outliers of the Central Russian upland to the north. The Don steppe, on the contrary, constitutes very level terrain. The wide river valleys, where streams proceed with a sluggish current, are often filled with salt lakes, and salt flats frequently break the expanse of black-earth and chestnut soils which characterize the region. Toward the east the relief gradually merges with the features of the Caspian lowland.

Normally the Don is not a very abundant river, but spring freshets raise its level considerably. At its mouth, on the Taganrog Gulf of the Sea of Azov, it forms a large delta, which, together with the shallow waters of the adjoining sea, abounds in fish of many varieties.

The climate is continental, with hot summers and severe, snowless winters. Precipitation varies from 16 inches annually in the west to 12 inches in the east and occurs chiefly in the summer months, in frequent heavy downpours. Easterly prevailing winds blowing in the spring and summer from the dry steppes and deserts of Central Asia and Kazakhstan present a serious danger of drought to the crops. Drought conditions are especially marked in the southeast, along the Sal River, where black earth is largely replaced by chestnut soils. In the well-watered flood plain of the lower Don, alluvial pastures are important for the raising of dairy cattle.

The eastern wing of the Donets Basin penetrates into the oblast along the Northern Donets River. Anthracite predominates in this area and represents about one fifth of the total reserves of the basin. The major coal-mining centers are Shakhty and Novoshakhtinsk. Other coal mines are concentrated in the areas of Gukovo, north of Krasnyy Sulin, and Gundorovka, west of Kamensk-Shakhtinskiy. In the Bogurayev coal field, at the intersection of the Northern Donets River and the Likhaya-Stalingrad railroad, coal is mined at Koksovyy (characteristically named for coke) north of the railroad and at Sinegorskiy to the south. Belaya Kalitva, at the center of this field, has limestone and glassworks. Anthracite dust from the mines is used to feed the power station of Artemovskiy, an eastern suburb of Shakhty, and the Nesvetay station

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 Rl Soviet Union Rl
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in a southwestern suburb of Krasnyy Sulin. The former plays an important role in the mechanization of the coal-mining operations. Before the Second World War, more than 10 percent of the Donbas coal was mined within Rostov Oblast.

On the basis of the coal resources, heavy industry is operating metallurgical plants at Taganrog and Krasnyy Sulin. Rostov is the home of *Rossel'mash*, the largest agricultural machinery plant of the USSR. Agricultural implements are also manufactured at Morozovsk. Other centers engaged in the production of machinery and metal products are Taganrog, Novocherkassk, Glubokiy, and Likhovskoy (at Likhaya station).

In the northern grain-growing district, wheat and sunflower are the dominant crops. Toward the southeast, barley and mustard become important; further on, toward the Caspian Lowland, the emphasis shifts to stock raising. Horses and meat cattle are gradually replaced by sheep in the drier areas. Cotton is grown to some extent in the south and the southeast. Several Cossack villages along the Don River, notably Tsimlyanskaya and Razdorskaya, have extensive vineyards. In a wide zone through the urban and heavily industrialized section of Taganrog-Rostov-Shakhty, truck gardening and the raising of dairy cattle are the principal agricultural activities. The principal agricultural centers are Millerovo and Chertkovo in the north and Sal'sk (with near-by Gigant state farm, one of the largest grain farms of the USSR) in the southeast. These and other towns throughout the oblast mill flour, extract sunflower oil, and process tobacco. The fish catch of the Don delta and adjacent Taganrog Gulf is processed at Azov, a small port southwest of Rostov.

Rostov Oblast is settled by Russians and a Ukrainian minority. Prior to the Second World War some Kalmyk elements were organized into a Kalmyk national rayon, northwest of Zimovniki. In 1944, following the abrogation of the Kalmyk Autonomous SSR, the rayon was also abrogated, and presumably the population was resettled elsewhere. In this connection, Rostov Oblast also acquired the westernmost section of the former Kalmyk Autonomous SSR.

Rostov lies on the elevated, right bank of the Don River at the head of the delta. Thanks to its favorable location at the junction of trade routes between the Black Sea, the Volga, the Ukraine, the European Center, and the Northern Caucasus, it developed early into an important commercial center and transportation hub. With the construction of the